

# CROSBY



# POST

PRIVATE JOURNAL OF THE  
BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY

NO. 6 (NEW SERIES)

FEB. 1960

SPECIAL 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY NUMBER

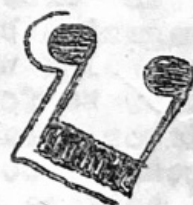


1950 -



HERE'S TO THE  
NEXT ERA IN  
The Crosby Society

- 1960



EJL

EXCITING NEWS RE "HIGH TIME" FROM 20th CENTURY FOX...

Honorary President:

Bing Crosby, 594 S Mapleton Drive, Holby Hills, Los Angeles, U.S.A.

Honorary Vice-President: Larry Crosby:Active Co)Presidents:

Frank Murphy, 15, Grosvenor Gardens, High Howdon, Wallsend, North'm'ld.  
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FOR YOUR INFORMATION The British Crosby Society was formed in March 1950 with the permission of HARRY LILLIS (BING) CROSBY.

The club magazine "CrosbyPost" is published bi-monthly by the Society at 15, Grosvenor Gardens, High Howdon, Wallsend, and is edited by Frank Murphy and Tony Carpenter. - Cover design by Ted Laker.

Inside illustrations by Tony Carpenter.

The yearly membership fee is 7/6 and an X here signifies that your subscription is now due. Please renew promptly by blank postal order to Frank Murphy - A double XX signifies that as you have not renewed since the last issue of Crosby Post, no further copies can be sent.

Contributors please note. Material for the April issue should reach the Editors by March 25th - The April issue of Crosby Post will be posted out to all members on April 15 - 1960.

CROSBY POST TENTH YEAR (new series) FEB - 1960

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Ted Laker reviews THE FIRST 10 YEARS

It just doesn't seem possible that ten years have passed by since the Crosby Society, or as it was then known at the beginning "The British Bing Club" came into being. I've had the very great pleasure of being in the club since that very great day in 1950 when the first of the club journals "Crosbyana" was issued. The editorial in the first issue tells of the great amount of work involved to get the club started and of the invaluable help given by "Pieturgoor" and other sources. Worthy Les Taylor was a tower of strength in the record department and collector Ralph Harding wrote prolifically under a wide range of pen names on a variety of Crosby topics. There were of course many other people without whom there would be no club dedicated to the name of Crosby today, many of them alas, no longer in our ranks today.

Enthusiasts welcomed the first magazine and its attempt to bring the collecting fraternity together and spread Bing knowledge far and wide. Possibly the first phase of the club could be said to have ended in 1953 when "Crosbyana" folded and "The Crosby Post" was started. A smaller magazine but a promise that it was to come out every other month consoled us. It was somewhere around this time that the club came very near to folding, but to the rescue came the club Secretary, Dot Hardiman later, Frank Murphy, another of the originals of the club, took up the post of Co-President and so the Society carried on.

I believe it was about 1955 that it was decided to appoint Publicity Officers, so Stan White and your truly were offered the job. Our Discologist and now Co)President Bill Taylor joined forces around the year 1956. We are indebted to Bill for several memorable get-togethers at his London home, affording us the opportunity our fellow club members.

Cont on page 14



## Christmas Funds Appeal

|    |                                      |   |                                  |
|----|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 2  | For your information                 | + |                                  |
|    | The first ten years by Ted Iaker     | + | Our most grateful thanks to the  |
| 3  | "Crozz-Talk"                         | + | following members who contrib-   |
| 4  | American Newsletter by Pat Sullivan  | + | uted so generously to our appeal |
| 5  | Newsletter Cont'                     | + | in the last issue.               |
| 6  | Newsletter Cont'                     | + |                                  |
| 7  | Open Letter from Franklin Engelmann  | + |                                  |
|    | Introducing Tony Carpenter.          | + | Mrs Betty Hale 5 - 0             |
| 9  | The Magic Voice by Ted Iaker.        | + | Miss Joan Walton 2 - 6           |
| 10 | Members Section                      | + | Miss Dorothea Withersd           |
| 11 | Members Section Cont'                | + | on 5 - 0                         |
| 12 | Crosby Chatter from Les Gaylor       | + | Vera and Bob Roberts £2-0 - 0    |
|    | Ted Iaker's new competition          | + | Mr Eric Griffiths 7 - 6          |
| 14 | Quotes from the L.P. covers          | + | Miss Jean Rainey 10 - 0          |
|    | News of The Crosby Circle booklet    | + | Mr Tony Carpenter £1-0 - 0       |
|    | M.G.M film news item                 | + | Mr Jack Manners £1-0 - 0         |
|    | Welcome new members                  | + | Mr Gerald Smith 2 - 6            |
| 15 | M.G.M. Film news item.               | + | Mr Michael Crampton 2 - 6        |
|    | My "ow time" goes by, by Jean Rainey | + | Mr Ian Arnott 2 - 6              |
| 16 | Ted spotlights news from Gala        | + | Miss Mary Hughes 5 - 6           |
|    | News from 20th Century Fox on Bing's | + |                                  |
|    | new film "HIGH TIE"                  | + |                                  |
|    | Press cuttings and sign off.         | + |                                  |
|    |                                      | + |                                  |
|    | Sketches on page 8 and 12            | + |                                  |
|    | snap on page 15                      | + |                                  |

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This wonderful sum of £6-5-6d gives us a great start to 1960. The assets from the appeal have greatly strengthened the clubs foundation - many, many thanks.

## Crozz - Talk by Frank

Hello members,

Its Post time once again and this issue is something of an extra special edition - with ten years of service to the one and only Bing, we felt that this issue had to be that little bit better. While we still have a long way to go before our magazine is 100%, I feel that this issue is a definite improvement on past issues of Crosby Post. Main reason for the improvement is the wonderful assistance I have received from our new assistant editor, Tony Carpenter. As well as doing the inside drawings, Tony has supplied at his own expense the terrific snap of Bing and Kathryn on page 15. Our Hon Vice President Mr Larry Crosby sends us many negatives of the Crosby family, but with funds ever in the doghouse, we never seem to get down to getting the snaps out - things won't always be the same though and now that Tony has started the ball rolling, let's hope we can continue to expand in this direction.

I received a letter from Dot last week and she asks for her best wishes to be conveyed to you - she hopes to meet Bing when he visits New York for the Perry Como show in March and I know you will join with me in wishing her all success.

Its always important you know to boost Bing whenever you can - many people just accept Bing without realising just how great he really is, we all have our own little ways of doing this I suppose, but one of the best boost Bing campaigns I heard in recent months came from member Jack Manners of 8 Jardin Str, Cumberwell London S.E.5. Jack tells me he induced 6 of his work mates to buy Bing's L.P. Buddies & Beaus - this is great work Jack - hope you succeeded with your further quest on them with "Fancy Meeting You Here"

Before signing off, I would just like to thank the many of you who take time out to write to me when you receive the magazine, I do so appreciate hearing from you, its so very important to read your Crosby views and news. Always especially welcome is the letter which arrives with a see enclosed.

We'll be back with you all again in April so until then, take good care of yourselves - remember to keep the Crosby flag flying high - there's only one man with a voice like Crosby - remember, they call him BING.

lots of good wishes, sincerely,

Frank

Dear Frank and Clubmembers,

Well, its newsletter time again but, alas, I face the same dilemma as I did when gathering material for the Oct issue - no news. The Fall television shows gave way to another slack period, and I'm going to have to "pass" once again on my reporting.

Despite the lack of news on this first day of the New Year, 1960 promises some exciting things for us Crosby fans. Already we have rumors of things to happen soon in the TV, movie and recording fields.

Taking TV first, you probably have already read that Bing's Spring special for ABC will guest star Perry Como and Bing's four singing sons, possibly excepting Gary. The show will be taped the week of Jan. 11th and will be seen on Feb. 29th. Bing will reciprocate by travelling to New York with his sons on March 26th to appear on Perry's NBC show.

As for motion pictures in 1960. Bing is committed to do two - "The Jimmy Durante Story" with Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin, and "High Time" with Fabian and Carol Lynley.

"The Secret Of Christmas" from the Fox movie, "Say One For Me" was issued as a single over here by Columbia in December, backed with "Just What I Wanted For Christmas". Feb will see the release of the first L.P. "How The West Was Won", for Bing's new label. You might be interested to know, too, that Gary Crosby has a new L.P. album release entitled, "The Happy Bachelor" the title taken from the single release he had in late 1959. Recording news from England has far overshadowed ours of late, of course, with the wonderful Brunswick releases. Those titles as you undoubtedly know, are from Bing's 1954-1958 radio series on CBS and there are hundreds more just as good looked in there vaults. They chose the ones done with orchestration - most of the others were done with the Buddy Cole Trio only, similar to the type of material featured in the "New Tricks" L.P. Let's hope 1960 will see the unloading of the vaults on more of these Bing/Buddy Cole treasures as well as the treasures of the Kraft Music Hall, Philco, Chesterfield and General Electric years.

Enclosed is a wonderful article on the recent re-union between Bing and his boys - hope you enjoy it.

Well Frank, I think that closes the 1959 chapter of the Crosby story from here, sorry I don't have more news to pass on this time. Warmest wishes to you and all the club members for a very happy 1960.

Sincerely,

*Pat*

EXCLUSIVE!  
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THE CROSBY'S GIVE  
MOTION PICTURE  
THE FULL  
INTIMATE  
STORY  
OF

HOW  
BING AND GARY  
RECONCILED!

"Its over now" blond, husky Phil Crosby says happily of the long existing tension between his eldest brother, Gary, and his father, Bing. In Phil's words, "It was mainly a difference of opinion between two headstrong men. The tensions broken now-it just took time"

To the relief of those close to the situation, much of the tension was dissolved with a handshake at the Moulin Rouge night club in Hollywood, when Bing went backstage after seeing his sons perform their smash-hit act. The Crosby's backstage re-union was soon on its way around the world. And a news dispatch told as much of the story behind it as the papers could know.

But unknown to the press or to Hollywood, another earlier meeting between Bing and Gary had prepared and softened the ground for this one. Quite by accident, they'd met a few days before in the warmth and informality of an ivy-covered Cape-Cod-type house in West Los Angeles, the home of Phil Crosby and his pretty brown-eyed bride, Sandy, a little blond doll of a baby named Dixie Lee, and an English bulldog, Winnie, as in Churchill.

Cont! on page 5



Page 2  
Gary and his brothers were watching television in the cozy provincial den when their father dropped in, the same den where Phil was talking to this reporter now.

"We were all sitting in here watching a football game" recalls Phil. "Gary and our manager, Pete Pettito, Sandy, Linny, Denny and Pat. Around five o'clock, all of a sudden there was a big rap on the door and in walked dad and our agent, George Rosenberg. I had no idea Dad was dropping by. I guess he was on his way home."

It was a tense situation. And in the small den with one door-and wall to wall people- there was no way out for anyone. "And this was the first time Gary and Dad had seen each other face to face in about a year" adds Phil. Later, Phil asked their agent, "Didn't you know Gary was here?" Rosenberg said he surmised as much. "I saw Pete's car out front and I figured Gary was probably inside" he said. "I pointed it out to your dad." Without so much as batting a blue eye, and fully aware of what he was doing, Bing had said, "I don't care. Let's go in anyway." "There weren't any big hellos or reunions" Phil goes on. Gary was more nervous than I've ever seen him. Dad was his typical cool self. He didn't make anything out of it, you know. Dad and Gary didn't exchange any conversation. As a matter of fact they didn't actually speak any words to each other. Dad just nodded and sat down. We talked about golf and, oh, a lot of things."

They talked about golf, about football, about everything but the one thing everyone in the room, all closely concerned with the situation, was thinking about.

When he could leave gracefully, Gary had gone.

"But the ice was broken" says Phil. And this had undoubtedly helped the situation when their father later came to see their show.

Their manager and their musical conductor, Dick Stabile, knew Bing was going to be out front. But none of the boys knew he was going to be there until they checked into the club that night. Bing was already there, seated high up in the back of the Moulin Rouge in a small booth next to the electricians room, waiting for the Crosby Brothers to come on. The owner of the club, Frank Sennes, and George Rosenberg, agent for the Crosby's were sitting in the booth with Bing.

Linny, Denny and Phil were told when they arrived. But nobody told Gary his father was there until two minutes before he went on stage. Meanwhile there were some anxious huddling going on backstage about what the reaction of Gary, who fronts the whole show, might be.

"What do you think?" Pete had asked Phil "Should we tell him now, or tell him at all?" Phil hesitated. As he recalls now. "I thought about it and I really didn't know. I'd thought about this so often, even up in Vegas when Dad called up there. "I want to come up and see the show" Dad said. But he didn't want to invite an unpleasant scene. The reporters would have loved that. And knowing Gary's feelings then, Phil had told their father, "Well you'd better hold off right now, Dad".

Dick Stabile felt Gary should definitely be told his father was out front at the Moulin Rouge. "I don't think it would be fair to go on and do the show without telling Gary" he said. And after all, as they all knew, no matter what he might do or say, Gary still loved his father very much and always would.

Their manager decided he would tell Gary just before he went on stage.

"Okay, then" agreed Phil, "lets do it that way"

As the time neared, Stabile started kidding Gary, saying, "Well, you'd better do a good show tonight. The governor is out there."

"What do you mean the Governor? What Governor?" Gary said, giving him a close eye. "Well, this is a very special night, Gary. Its got to be a very good show," Stabile said.

Then two minutes before he went onstage, Gary was told that the most important audience in his world was out front. There was a moments silence. Then turning to his brothers, Gary said, "Well, this is it fellows. You've been waiting a long time for this"

And if anyone had worried whether or not the show would go on, they quit worrying right then. The show went on all right. And the Crosby Brothers did the same proud. "Gary went out there and did the greatest show he's ever done" Stabile said later. "I was so proud of this boy, I'm telling you I felt like crying".

"Gary did a great job" agrees Phil. Were they nervous? "I was a little nervous-not because I knew Dad was out there, but because I was feeling a little under the weather and I felt my pipes weren't too good" (Phil reveals a strong tenor voice and does a beautiful ballad that's one of the surprises of the act) But the show went well and we had a fine



audience" Phil goes on.

The audience, part of the public who'd been worrying about the differences between Bing and his boys, applauded enthusiastically, unaware of the drama around them, and of their part in it. Those closest to the situation, however, were worrying about what would happen when Bing came backstage after the show? Gary had refused to talk to him a couple of times before their chance meeting at Phil's home. Would they talk here? For that matter could they? Or had things gone too far?

More sensitive than his brothers, and especially sensitive where his father is concerned. Gary was deeply hurt by some criticism he felt was undeserved. The words Bing had used in a letter after Gary and Lindsay were evicted from their apartment, stayed with Gary long after he'd read the letter. Contrary to the opinion of some who think Gary and Bing are too much alike in temperament, Phil says "They're not at all. Dad plays it cool. Gary's quick tempered and he over-emphasizes." They're alike however when it comes to being strong-minded. "Dad's just as stubborn as Gary" - in fact, he's twice as stubborn as Gary will ever be" smiles Phil.

And if their father has sometimes criticized Gary, he has, on the other hand, also been very proud of what Gary has achieved in show business. "Dad's told me this many times" says Phil. And from the beginning the Crosby's compared notes after Gary's appearances. "When Gary did the Bob Hope show in Morocco while he was overseas, I was going to school at Washington State. I called home and asked Dad if he'd seen the show and he and I thought Gary had done a great job - "I was just stunned" Dad said. "He was so great".

As Phil talked, I was thinking that it would be hard for their father to say these things to Gary. A basically humble man at heart, Bing always leaned over backward himself to avoid praise. Knowing his sons would be exposed to a sufficient supply from the perennial celebrity hangers on, he would be more concerned with combating it, not adding to it. And I was also thinking how much it must have meant to Gary, so basically unsure of himself, to have heard his father say these things. Bing's ambition for all his boys was always for them to have a goal in life - he's said many times. "I don't care what field its in-but something. Not as Bing Crosby's kids, but as themselves, Gary, Philip, Dennis and Lindsay Crosby..."

Well, they are doing that now, the Crosby Brothers. One could only guess Bing's thoughts as he watched their show. He made no comments to those around him. But his bland blue eyes stayed glued to those four on stage who were singing, joking and soft shoeing up a storm. playing to one man high up in a booth at the back of the club. The audience was full of nostalgia and misty eyes when Bing's boys wound up their show harmonizing on some of their fathers hits, closing with Tura Lura Lura. High up in the booth, one of their audience started making his way down the stairs.

Backstage, tension tension was thick. The most important "act" was still coming up. You could feel the hope, the apprehension. Phil felt the ice had been broken when his father and brother met in his home. "And I knew Gary was happy, because he knew he'd done a good show for Dad" But still... "Our manager had said Dad was coming back after the show. Gary and I had a dressing room together, Pete put Denny and Linny in with us, and ran everybody else out of there" Suddenly there wasn't any more time to worry about what might happen-it was happening.. "In walked Dad"

And Bing Crosby was alone with his sons. Three pairs of blue eyes and one pair of brown waited..... "The first guy Dad looked at was Gary" Phil says. Perhaps to find a quick searching answer there. "Then Dad stuck out his hand to him and said, "It was a real fine job"" Gary gripped his fathers hand. "We tried our best" he said. The other terry-cloth robes relaxed. You could almost hear the tension break. What did they talk about?

"All talked about was the act, really" says Phil. "Dad said he liked it real well, how proud he was of us, and all that. Actually Gary and Dad just talked like nothing had ever happened between them. They talked about the future of the act. Dad wanted to know when we were taking the show on tour. Gary asked Dad how the TV show he was rehearsing was going. Things like that



"See you around, Fellows," their father said when he left. But he was back again in no time. The club owner, Frank Sennes, had walked out to the car with Bing, and the club photographer had gone along. He had been told not to try to shoot a picture backstage, but Sennes told Bing he'd love to have one of him with the boys.

"Be glad to" Bing said. And his four sons were a little startled to see their father coming back leading the way for a cameraman. Bing got in one more parting word. "You sure you fellows weren't practicing on the side up at the ranch?"

The warm glow that stayed backstage told more than words could tell. Time would tell the final ending. But Bing had gone to his son without knowing whether he would be welcome. And Gary had met his outstretched hand. And that was all that mattered now.

The old Groaner walked back across the parking lot, got into his car whistling, and drove away. And somewhere from that special place where the stars look down, Dixie Crosby must have smiled - seeing her "five boys" as she used to call them, together again - ) Reporter Maxine Arnold.

\*\*\*\*\*END\*\*\*\*\*

Open letter to The British Crosby Society from B.B.C. announcer;

FRANKLIN ENGELMANN

19th January 1960

Dear Mr Laker;

At this long lapse of time I cannot recall what I have already told you; one or two incidents still stand out in my mind.

When I had just finished an interview with "Bing" in the Hotel Scribe in Paris around October or November 1944, he was due to catch a plane back to the States and had no need for the various items of Army kit which had been issued to him. He had some wonderful items like a sheepskin coat, an elaborate travel pack - usually given only to American Generals - and other similar much coveted things. He turned to me and said, "You'd better pass these along for me". I was just going to take them when I realised that an American woman sergeant had assumed that they were for her, and she grabbed them all and embraced him warmly. He had meant me, but how could I take these things from her, when she had so obviously assumed her rights in them. So I missed having some wonderful and very luxurious souvenirs of Bing, the war correspondent.

Another detail: When Bing was in London, I think before the invasion, he was in Kettner's restaurant when the G.I.'s got to hear of it and demanded a song. Then and there he sang to them from a window of the restaurant to the assembled crowds on the pavement.

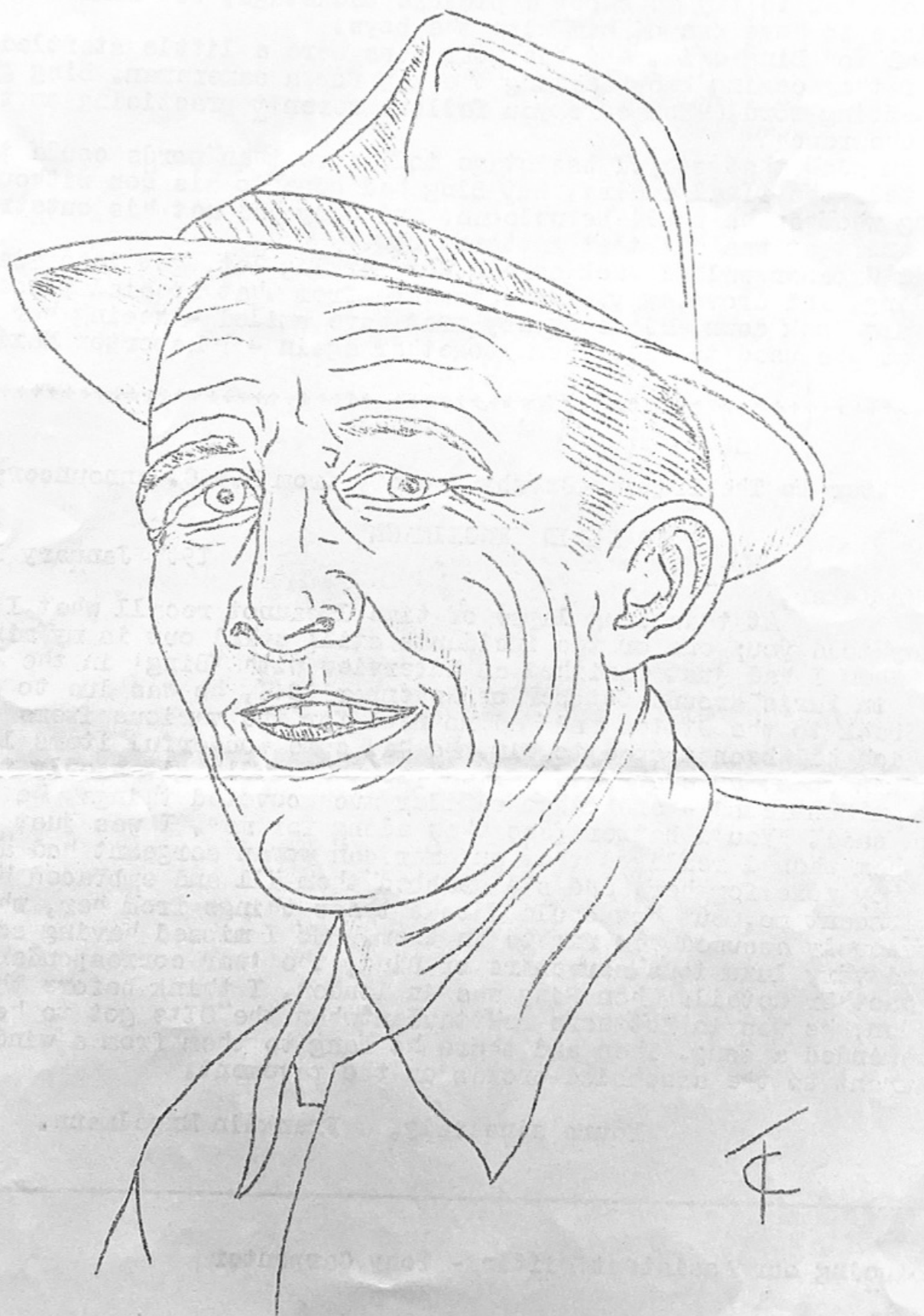
Yours sincerely, Franklin Engelmann.

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Introducing our Assistant Editor - Tony Carpenter.

Hello there,

"Just write a letter of self-introduction" said Frank in a letter which arrived before Christmas. I had no idea it would prove so difficult. A couple of articles and a drawing or two, with which I had had some luck in getting a Bing likeness, were accepted by him for the Journal. I was delighted at this, my humble offerings to be used for the Post. The possibility that he would confer with the other officers and offer me the position of Assistant Editor on the Post could not have been further from my over-sized noggin. From my elevated level three feet above the floor, I decided without hesitation to accept, most humbly, the post. At this point I would like to state quite formally that, in all sincerity, I consider it a great honour and a privilege to assist in any way possible



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As yet in this series I don't think we have mentioned much of Bing's way with a Western Ballad. Any Crosby collector knows how at ease Bing sounds when giving out with songs of the wild West, so I thought we'd just pick a few to discuss in this article.

Though it's probably very familiar to you I'm kicking off with that fine example of the early Crosby style; "HOME ON THE RANGE" with the Lennie Hayton Orchestra, recorded way back in 1933, on Columbia DB 1829.

Bing recorded this one again later, and produced another good record. But not comparable with the original waxing, with the youthful Crosby tones giving full vent to the verse and chorus of this great standard.

The backing; "BUDDY CAN YOU SPARE A DIME" is also fine Bing but as we are concerned with Western songs this time, we'll pass quickly by this side. In 1941 with the Trotter Orchestra and the Music Maids helping out, Bing recorded "CLEMENTINE" and backed it with "THE OLD OAKEN BUCKET" Brunswick 04108. Both numbers are given similar treatment, acceptive slow paced introduction, with Bing singing the numbers straight, somewhat tongue in cheek, one imagines. As when the Music Maids chorus joins in, the pace is quickened and the sides have a lively finish. With the lines of "Clementine" being up-dated a little to allow Bing to take a sly dig at Gene Autrey. Perhaps they might have substituted Wyatt Earp or someone similar, had the records been made recently.

The next record, though not among the best of Bing's Western achievements, is a little unusual perhaps.

Presenting as it does, Bing with Woody Hermans Orchestra, on Brunswick 03313 and recorded in 1942. The well known song is "DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS" Taken at quite a fast pace, the orchestra is allowed quite a spell on their own. Then Bing returns to finish the side with another short vocal spell. I would regard this one as one of those experiments with a swing band which just didn't come off.

The backing, "BLUES IN THE NIGHT" doesn't concern us here.

So we go on to "EMPTY SADDLES" backed with "I'M AN OLD COWHAND" Brunswick 02270, recorded in 1936. The first side has Victor Young in charge of the Orch, Bing is in very good dramatic mood and perhaps we can regard this as top drawer Crosby, with no punches pulled. An almost faultless recording. The backing with Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra is the well known ditty which gets the humorous treatment and will perhaps raise a smile.

Two slow Western numbers on Brunswick 02217 were recorded in 1936 and both have Victor Young in attendance. Both these sides seem to bring out much that that is the best in Bing. "TWILIGHT ON THE TRAIL" is perhaps the top side. But the slow jogging "WE'LL REST AT THE END OF THE TRAIL" isn't far behind. Towards the end of this side we are treated to a spot of whistling. Maybe here's as good a point as any to wind up the proceedings. I know there are many other famous Crosby Western recordings, perhaps we can incorporate them in an article sometime. Let me know your views on this and also mention any other records like featured in these articles.

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Introducing Tony Cont:

Although I am a comparative new-comer to the Society, I hasten to add that I have for many years been an admirer of our great star. That I was a late-comer to the club, is without doubt, my personal loss, which I shall try to overcome. I cannot claim any great knowledge of the writing, editing or the art side of running a club of this nature, but I promise most sincerely to do all I can to assist the stalwarts of the Society to do this. If I make mistakes, then I ask you to bear with me. I'll learn, and I'll work hard for the betterment of the "Post" and the fuller enjoyment of the boundless talents of our wonderful Bing. No star is more worthy of our efforts. His talents are exceptional and our club must prove itself capable of even greater strides to keep up with our star.

Let's make 1960 a truly wonderful Bing year.

Tony Carpenter.

#### EDITORS NOTE

Owing to pressure of space, we regret that instalment 5 of our serial "SPORTSMAN BING CROSBY" has had to be withheld - the next issue of Crosby Post will, however, carry an enlarged instalment of this great story.



Opening up Members Section this month is a wonderful story from Joan Walton who writes from 5, Bridge Str, Brough, Kirby Stephen, Westmorland. Joan titles her piece.

### AN IMAGINARY INTERVIEW WITH BING CROSBY

An imposing door faced me with the magic name of Bing Crosby framed in large gilt letters. I was stood in a long corridor, known more generally as the hall-way containing the male dressing rooms at the impressive MGM studios.

I knocked at the door confronting me, it was quickly opened by a slim built smiling man, wearing one of his assorted hats at a jaunty angle. He invited me to step inside and chat for a while. First thing I thought to ask him was a question that Bing must have been asked countless times before.... "If you had to start all over again, would you change anything?"

A short pause, then a faint smile... "NO I don't think so", "I think being born in an average family, helped me a great deal. I came up the hard way and whatever success I've achieved in life, I think I appreciate all the more"

Another question I asked the famous Mr Crosby was, if he would be visiting England in the near future. His reply was to the effect that he was so tied up with various deals that he would find it impossible for a long while. He did hint though that there was an outside chance of a visit to our shores in the summer of 1960.

I was just readying another question when there was an urgent call for Bing to appear on the set. This wound up the interview rather quicker than I intended. But as I left the studio I vowed to return in the near future and ask Mr Crosby a lot more questions which for the time being would have to remain unanswered.

Madge Holmes, writes from 142, Wellington Str, Winson Green, Birmingham.

I do agree with everything Fred Reynolds says about Bing holding his own with child scene-stealers, but what price Bing himself as a scene-stealer? I remember reading Dorothy Lamour comparing Bing with a child and a puppy rolled into one when it came to scene-stealing.

She said that she and Bob Hope would work themselves silly doing a scene then when they saw the run through, they would find that Bing, with no effort whatever, had completely taken over. "Like the commandos landing at dawn" was Dorothy's expression. When she and Bob would turn on him with awful threats, Bing looked so innocent that they had to believe that he didn't mean it.

However, perhaps Bing's biggest triumph in this direction was in keeping up with Barry Fitzgerald in "Going My Way". I believe that Leo McCarey who wrote and directed the picture, said that he was ashamed when he realized that in one scene Barry held the floor for about fifteen minutes, with Bing merely nodding and murmuring "Yes Father". However Bing said he did not mind, and when the scene was completed, it was seen that Bing had more than held his own with facial expression and tiny gestures.

Along this line I think that Bing's face has been part of his fortune. It is such a nice face so much easier for an audience to associate itself with than a very handsome one.

Eric Griffiths of 59, Pickhurst Rise, West Wickham, Kent presents...

### SPOTLIGHT ON BING'S EARLY RECORDING HITS

This time I am really digging back to an early one. "IF I HAD A TALKING PICTURE OF YOU" I remember this popular tune, also the picture "Sunnyside Up" coming out, and if you think that dates me, -it does! However I must make it clear that I was then too young for girls, or-I mean Bing records, for I was in knee pants/ as Bing sings/

This title really comes under the heading of Paul Whiteman and his Orchestra - Fox-trot, with vocal refrain, but to most people it is now a Crosby Collectors piece - recorded on the 16 - 10 - 1929. and issued on Columbia 14353. This is not an easy disc to come by.

Cont on page 11



Eric Griffiths continues; - It was one of the few it waited for until last year and it arrived at my house with the co-operation of two friends of mine, although one of them was not even aware it was for me at the time. No doubt many of us could tell stories of how rare pieces (I'm still talking about records by the way) came our way. This one is a good example, for it travelled from London to the South coast and back to me in Kent. The chap in London who later learned the disc was for me said I could have handed it to you and saved the trip of quite a few miles by post... The copy by the way, is a picture label of 'Whiteman' on American Col 2010. I think this is one of the best recordings of the period. Even the Whiteman band features good soloists. Of course as was the practice in those days, the 'Vocalist' only gets one chorus - still, it is a BING.

In the last issue of Post we printed a selection of records on which a Crosby fan could base a collection. Now Member, Miss Frances Saint of 32a, Whitworth Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton, adds her impressive selections

- (1) "When The Blue Of The Night" I like this record not only because it is Bing's signature tune, but also a tune for young and old alike.
- (2) "Just One More Chance" I choose this record because Bing puts it over with such wonderful appeal.
- (3) "White Christmas" My own particular favourite Bing record and also a world-wide favourite.
- (4) "Blue Skies" A lively, happy song, beautifully sung.
- (5) "Come On The Range" This is a great favourite of my Father.
- (6) "True Love" Which earned Bing his 20th Golden Disc. Also a lovely song.
- (7) "Now You Has Jazz" This record shows how versatile Bing can be.
- (8) "Gigi" I consider this to be one of the finest records Bing has made.
- (9) "A Christmas Sing With Bing" L.P. This is not only a lovely record, but to me, no collection would be complete without it..
- (10) "Play A Simple Melody" Because this record introduces Gary and is a very charming song.

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Jack Manners of 8, Jardim Street, Camberwell, London S.E.5. has sent me a very impressive list of his activities on behalf of our 'melody man' and here is a selection of Jack's enterprising efforts

Gala Records  
114, Charing Cross Rd,  
London W.C.2.

6 - Jan - 60

Dear Mr Manners,

I am grateful for your remarks concerning the Bing Crosby L.P.'s. We do in fact have, "An Apple An Axe and a Bookskin Jacket" and "Jack Be Nimble". We shall be issuing these, but there is no release date at the moment and until we see what demand there is for our first two releases, we shall not be able to fix a release date for them. However, at a rough guess, I would say October of this year.

Yours faithfully, Dick Howard for Gala Records.

The British Broadcasting  
Corporation,  
Broadcasting House  
London W.1.  
2 - Dec - 59.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 25th November which I am bringing to the notice of those responsible for our gramophone record programmes so that they may see for themselves that you would welcome the opportunity of hearing a programme of Bing Crosby's long-playing discs.

Thank you for your interest in writing,

Yours faithfully, Kate M Romer, Secretariat.

#### EDITORS NOTE

Congratulations Jack in having such had such excellent replies from this part of your campaign - I hope more of our members will follow your lead in writing to the record companies and the B.B.C. - We must do all we can to get our boy back up to the top - where he so rightly belongs





"Well members, first of all may I wish you all a very happy New Year and that 1960 may bring us forth some increased issue of Bing records.

I'd like to congratulate Bill Taylor on having an excellent article based on his collection printed in the Record Mirror. Also, some of you may have read the article by Derek Johnson in New Musical Express, on recordings Bing has made of British songs. This was based upon information supplied by myself upon his request. Both were great articles and appeared on New Year's day - very nice propaganda for Bing in these days of JUNK discs of other artists of the 'teen brigade!

I feel the Phillips company let Bing down in not issuing his version of "JUST WHAT I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS" and "SECRET OF CHRISTMAS" as a single. I'll write to Mr Johnny Franz asking him if he was issuing them. He now tells me that they may come out together for 1960 Christmas release. On the latter Bing is just superb and in great voice. I like him of the last few years better than his late 30s and early 40s period.

Many of you may like to know that Bing recorded "Just what I want for Christmas" - "Secret of Christmas" - "Say one for Me" - and "I could't care less" with Frank De Vol's Orchestra on the 25 March 1959, also the latter three titles he recorded on the 6th of March 1959 with Percy Faith and his Orchestra, these have not been issued.

I sent a recent letter to the President of American Decca requesting more Bing discs. The letter was loaded with 'brickbats' aimed at the poor 'Bing' policy of his company and his A & R men. I sent him typed lists of about 200 Bing/Buddy Cole Trio/Orchestra recordings not yet issued, and suggesting he hand the lists around to his A & R men to make them familiar with unissued Bing material. I really and truly 'lambasted' them and they say their A & R men are now keeping a close watch on any tapes that are free to issue recordings from. Also, they state that many Bing's have not been issued owing to all parties connected with the recordings not reaching agreement. I have done my best members, so I hope something comes of it.

Mr Simon Rady, new President of Bing's own record label Project Records, has written to me suggesting I write to him on the subject of Bing and recordings. I'm requesting that he personally ask Bing to record more, have any of you any ideas? who knows of the outcome. In my last article an error crept in somehow as "Sailing down the Chesapeake Bay" is a 1952 recording taken from a pre-recorded Bing radio show and is not from the CBS series.

Last year the Crosby Office gave me the title and number of a Golden Records disc, an E.P. called "Three Western Heroes" and although a year has passed it has not been issued up to the time of writing, in the USA. I notified Gala records of its existence and they immediately wrote to Golden Records to see if the tapes are available to them.

"How The West Was Won" L.P. will be issued in the USA on Feb 1st. In Australia, no L.P. was issued for Say One For Me, only a very sensible E.P. on Coronet of just the four Bing songs.

Finally, please keep those Bing request cards rolling in to the Radio stations, we have made a very good 'Bing' start and mustn't let it lapse.

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Ted introduces another of his popular competitions

Li There,

As you all know, this issue of Crosby Post marks 10 years of our clubs existence. We would like to enrol more members and so as a little encouragement for you to entice your friends into our circle, I would like to offer as a prize to the member who enrolls the most new members in a given period. By that, I mean the member must have actually joined with fee paid up.

Back to the prize again, which is, A LONG PLAYING RECORD of a COMPLETE BING CROSBY HALF HOUR RADIO SHOW, with Bing singing about 9 songs. Frank will send me proof that the members total is correct so let's have a good response and make 1960 a CROSBY year.

In the event of no-one qualifying for the L.P. with a few new members, I'll substitute a dubbing from a V disc with Tommy Dorsey's Orchestra of "It Could happen to you"/ Amor Amor, for the best practical idea or suggestion on how to raise club funds.



The last few years, having acquired our own duplicator and therefore gaining more independence, we've been able to experiment with cover drawings and so on, to try to make our magazine just that bit better. And so, I think that short account brings the story of the Crosby Society up to date. In this short survey it hasn't been possible to mention everyone who has had a connection with our organisation, but perhaps in closing, mention should be made of such past stalwarts as, Jean Rainey, Arthur Allen and Colin Pugh who used to write such helpful articles on the collecting scene. Now, may we look forward to the next ten years.

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# QUOTES FROM THE L.P. COVERS

this month's L.P. "THE LOVED HYMNS" Brunswick 8734

"In the very best sense of the phrase Bing Crosby brings these hymns home to us. He presents them as songs, sings them simply and sincerely as expressions of good feeling, gives voice to them as we ourselves might voice them in moments of privacy. Thus expressed, the hymns that we have too often taken for granted acquire a new freshness and words which we may well know by heart, demand to be heard as though for the first time. Supported by the Ken Darby Choir, Bing Crosby here offers a selection which ranges from the majestic height of "Holy, Holy, Holy" and "All Hail The Power Of Jesus Name" to the gospel hymn simplicity of "He Leadeth Me" and "Another Dear Pray For Me". One is tempted to think that this record can do almost as great a service in introducing Bing Crosby to hymn-singers as it can introducing hymns to the fans of Bing Crosby, though it is of course a mistake to assume that the two groups are separate and distinct.

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## GEORGE PAL WANTS BING CROSBY FOR BROTHERS GRIMM

The following news has been sent to the Society by MGM Film Company. Producer-Director George Pal has big plans for his next Metro Goldwyn Mayer Production. "THE BROTHERS GRIMM". He has sent the script to none other than Bing Crosby. Pal says Crosby is showing considerable interest in playing one of the brothers in the biography. Peggy Lee has written seven songs for the biography which will also include depiction of four famous tales written by the Grimms. Crosby will have his choice of the brother he wants to portray- Wilhelm-Karl or Jakob.

|                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Society welcomes the following new members to its circle of Crosby admirers - We hope you will enjoy the activities we inspire on behalf of the "One and Only BING" | - Mrs Kit Manners, 8, Jardin Str, Camberwell.                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                         | - Mr J Joyce, 16/17 The Square, New Invention, Willenhall, Staffs. |
|                                                                                                                                                                         | - Mr E Inman, 30, Longstone Rd, Tooting Bec; S.W.17                |
|                                                                                                                                                                         | - Mr J Saunders, 28, Jephson Court, Studley Road, S.W.4.           |

.....

We regret that owing to the disposition of our Discologist Bill Taylor, we have been unable to cope with the usual review of Bing's latest record releases - We know this will disappoint many of you but we feel you will appreciate the difficulty involved. - In the next issue we shall present an enlarged section on The Groaner In The Groove / Meanwhile we ask you to join with us in wishing our Bill a speedy recovery - Get well soon Bill.

Advance orders can now be taken for the new booklet CROSBY CIRCLE No 1

To obtain your copy, send a blank PO for I/9 to Frank Murphy before March 1st - Crosby Circle No 1 will feature special story's on Bing and his family which have not been printed in Crosby Post. The supply will be strictly limited to those members who order before the above date - Therefore no copies will be available to members who don't comply with the above instructions. Copies of the first issue of this exciting series will be posted out to those on the order list on March 15th 1960. Order your copie now - Don't forget the closing date for last orders. MARCH 1ST.

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"TEMPTATION TIME" SONG FOR AVA

"Temptation" by Arthur Freed and Nacio Herb Brown, one of the top all-time Hit Parade songs, will be sung by Ava Gardner in a cafe sequence of M.G.M.'s Titanus Production TEMPTATION. The film is shooting in Italy with Nunnally Johnson directing. The song "Temptation" was originally sung by Bing Crosby in M.G.M.'s GOING HOLLYWOOD IN which he appeared opposite Marion Davies in 1933. The number was an instantaneous hit and has remained a best seller ever since.

Collectors Note: The original Bing Crosby recording of Temptation, which was recorded on the 21st of October, 1933 is still available on FONTANA TFR 6000 - 10" L.P.

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Bing and Kathryn Crosby



My How the time goes By by Jean Rainey - A former President of the British Crosby Society

It doesn't seem possible that 10 years have passed since the Society, or the British Bing Club, as it was first christened, was founded. 10 years since Arthur Allen and I were corresponding madly over the question; "would it be possible to form a club for Bing in Britain?" It seemed like a dream that couldn't really come true.

Arthur planned out the type of magazine, and we were on. You can imagine how excited we grew as we came to realise that our idea was not quite as fantastic as it first appeared. We had great fun advertising here there and everywhere, recruiting new members, many of whom are still with us and among the officers of the Club.

Although it is some years since I have taken any active part in the Society, my interest in it and my high regard for Bing has never waned. To me he is still the greatest (or the 'most' as I believe they say today)

I agree with the writer in the Christmas Post who says that Bing should be brought into our homes via TV - The enthusiastic reviews of his infrequent American TV shows, should prove that there is no need to have to accept imitators when we could be having the real thing.

The last ten years have been very eventful and we wish for continued happiness for Bing and his family during the next ten years, and for us.

Please Bing..... More records, films and TV and I mean TV that we here in Britain can see - how about a special series for our TV screens?

But whilst we hope that the 1960's will still be Bing years for us, we know that if Bing were to decide to retire completely (heaven forbid) we should still be forever in his debt for the great pleasure he has brought into our lives for so many years.

\*\*\*\*\* end \*\*\*\*\*

MORE NEW MEMBERS

A special hello and welcome to the following new Crosby-ites -

Mr Ken Milford, 51, Fourth Avenue, Teignmouth Devon.

Mr Carlton Jemmott, 72, Elmfield Road, Belham, London, S. W 12.



Owing to our worthy disc expert Bill Taylor being indisposed, Frank has asked me to try to give some idea of what these reasonably priced L.P.s are like. Well I've had the set as issued in the U.S.A. on Golden Records (4 L.P.s in all) for some while now and I might add, I have enjoyed their contents.

The titles in the complete set are: - "Never Be Afraid" "Jack Be Nimble" "All Baba and the Forty Thieves" and "An Axe, An Apple and a Buckskin" Jacket. Bing handles each story with such charm and ease that though they are all so well known, some freshness is imparted to these childhood fantasies. If you want a sample of Bing as narrator, character actor and singer, any of these L.P.s will fit the bill, and at the very reasonable price of 16/9 each, they should be snapped up quickly!!.

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 CASTING REPORT from TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX on BING CROSBY'S - "HIGH TIME"  
 supplied to the Society by the kind courtesy of Exploitation Manager  
 Mr H Pease.

Sixteen year old Tuesday Weld is going to college in a co-starring role in Bing Crosby's "High Time" for 20th Century Fox. The title refers to Crosby's decision, in the story, to start college at the age of 51. He is shown as the owner of 1432 drive-in restaurants. Tuesday will portray a girl who changes her personality at least once a year. One year she's a beatnik. Another season she decides she prefers older men and singles out Bing as the target of her efforts.

Youthful and attractive blonde Miriam Nelson, is working out a routine involving 2000 dancers for Bing Crosby's "High Time" which starts Feb 1 at Wake Forrest University, North Carolina. The dancers will include--; Crosby, Tuesday Weld, Fabian, and other principals.

Dick Beymer, placed under 20th Century Fox "contract following his featured role in "The Diary Of Ann Frank" has been given a top supporting role in Bing Crosby's "High Time". Beymer will be one of three roommates of Bing Crosby, through four years at Wake Forrest. The star portrays a millionaire with grown children. He decides to obtain a college education.

..... Should any further information arrive from Fox after this issue is completed, a special supplement will be issued - failing this, we shall give you a full report on "HIGH TIME" in April.

.....  
PRESS CUTTINGS . Empire News - Jan 24, 1960 . Universe 15/1/60  
 . BANKER BING - Bing Crosby .  
 . singer and actor, is the new . BING MAKES A DATE  
 . first chairman of the . TO AID HOSPITAL  
 New Musical . First National Bank at .  
 New Musical Express . Holbrook, Arizona. .  
 1st Jan, 1960 .  
 GARY CROSBY has .  
 received an excellent . the gift parcels for St. Joseph's Hospital Preston.  
 acting role with John . The sender; Bing Crosby, who had directed it to  
 Wayne in "The Alaskans! . Childrens Fair, St Joseph's Hospital.  
 . The gift was a diary for listing engagements and  
 . telephone numbers. A draw will probably decide  
 Newcastle Evening Chron! . the eventual owner of the diary and the proceeds  
 ROUND WITH THE RECORDS. . will go to the Christmas Fair, which has raised  
 by Derek Murray. ; nearly 23,000.

Pools of lamplight .  
 spilled over into the gloom and beckoned onwards. It was a typical November evening and I had two calls to make. At each house, as I called, a gramophone was being played-and on both occasions the singer was Crosby.

A coincidence, yes, but perhaps a sign that the now unfashionable Crosby is not as neglected as many imagine - A new Crosby L.P. of 12 old tracks is ideal for the party season. He sings with no fewer than 16 guest artists, nearly all well known artists. Brunswick IAT 8306 Bings Buddies & Beaus" This is a disc well worth an investment..

Cheerio until April from all the Society Gang.